

十字架的團契

信經：在本丟彼拉多手下受難、被釘在十字架上、受死、埋葬

認信：每當我們宣告基督在十字架上的受苦和死亡，我們就是在承認神是一位與人一同受苦的上帝。除了這位在苦難中的上帝，我們再也沒有別的神。除了十字架上的基督，我們也沒有別的主。因此，我們要學習回到十字架的蔭下，在苦難、卑微、軟弱、和羞辱中，與這位上帝相交。

（一）那使人絆倒的十字架

哥林多前書 1:18-25：猶太人和希尼利人要求的是一個怎樣的福音呢？十字架的福音為何絆倒他們呢？

（二）受苦的上帝

- 十字架標記著苦難、卑微、軟弱、羞辱。
- 希臘人心目中的上帝是一個不食人間煙火的神，對人間的苦難不聞不問。因為唯有一個不受感情煩擾的上帝，才是一位真正超越的神。是以對他們來說，十字架是愚拙的。
- 然而基督教的神卻是一位與人一起經歷苦難的上帝（出埃及記 2:23-25；何西阿書 11:1-12；馬可福音 14:32-36, 15:33-39）
- 每當我們感受不到上帝，每當我們孤獨地受苦，上帝都無言地在十字架上陪伴著我們。

（三）十字架的團契

- 現代人不顧一切來逃避苦難，認為一切導致我們痛苦的東西都是邪惡的。
- 猶太人只知道基督是王。他們的基督是一位榮耀的君王，行神蹟的受膏者。我們不也是時常這樣以為嗎？
- 我們要學習的，卻是在苦難中與基督相交：
 - 在苦難中跟隨基督（彼得前書 2:18-25）
 - 在苦難中就近基督（希伯來書 13:11-14）
 - 在苦難中認識基督（腓立比書 3:10-11）
- 分享基督的苦難，也就分享著基督的安慰（哥林多後書 1:3-11）。

Fellowship of the Cross

Creed: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Crucified and Buried

Confession: When we confess the crucifixion and the death of Jesus Christ, we are proclaiming that our God is a God who suffers with man. Except for this suffering God, we have no other God. Except for this crucified Christ, we have no other Lord. For this reason, we learn to fellowship with this God in suffering, humility, weakness and shame.

The Scandal of the Cross

1 Cor 1:18-25: Why is the cross foolishness to the Gentiles, and stumbling block to the Jews.

The Suffering God

- Cross = suffering, humility, weakness, shame
- *Deism*: The Greeks believed in a deist God, one who has nothing to do with the physical world, let alone participating in the suffering of men. For how can a truly transcendent God suffer, and be affected by emotions. For them, the cross is utter foolishness.
- But the Christian God is a God who suffers with man (Exo 2:23-25; Hos 11:1-12; Mk 14:32-36, 15:33-39).
- When we cannot “feel” the presence of God, when we suffer “alone”, the “hidden” God is there on the cross, quietly accompanying us.

The Fellowship of the Cross

- Modern man would do anything to avoid suffering. It is assumed that every form of suffering is evil.
- *Triumphalism*: The Jews expected Christ to be a glorious conqueror, a Messiah of miracles. Do we expect the same?
- What we have to learn instead, is to fellowship with Christ through suffering:
 - To follow Christ in suffering (1 Pet 2:18-25)
 - To bear the suffering of Christ (Heb 13:11-14)
 - To know Christ in suffering (Phil 3:10-11)
- Sharing Christ's suffering, and thereby sharing his comfort (2 Cor 1:3-11)